

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 28

**Introduced by Assembly Member Obernolte**  
***(Coauthor: Assembly Member Chu)***

January 26, 2016

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 28—Relative to daylight saving time.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 28, as amended, Obernolte. Daylight saving time.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President to enact legislation that would allow a state to adopt daylight saving time year round.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The State of California is committed to attaining  
2 50 percent of its energy generation from renewable sources and  
3 to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below  
4 its 1990 level by 2030; and  
5 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the state to employ any  
6 and all means of energy reduction that will reduce reliance and  
7 pressure on energy infrastructure in the state; and  
8 WHEREAS, Daylight saving time was a widely used 20th  
9 century energy reduction tool that can be expanded to meet 21st  
10 century energy shortages; and  
11 ~~WHEREAS, A 2008 federal Department of Energy report~~  
12 ~~concluded that extended daylight saving time saves the United~~  
13 ~~States approximately 0.5 percent energy each day that it is used,~~  
14 ~~and;~~

1 WHEREAS, A report by the State Energy Resources  
2 Conservation and Development Commission, issued in May 2001,  
3 and titled “Effects of Daylight Saving Time on California  
4 Electricity Use,” indicates that winter daylight saving time, as that  
5 term is defined in the report, would likely reduce electricity use  
6 by 3,400 megawatt hours per day and that summer double daylight  
7 saving time, as that term is defined in the report, would likely  
8 reduce electricity use by 1,500 megawatt hours per day, producing  
9 a cost savings of \$300,000,000 to \$1,025,000,000 per year for  
10 California ratepayers; and

11 WHEREAS, A 2004 study from Rutgers University titled “The  
12 Effects of Daylight and Daylight Saving Time on United States  
13 Pedestrian Fatalities and Motor Vehicle Occupant Fatalities” found  
14 that year-round daylight saving time would reduce pedestrian  
15 fatalities by 171 or 13 percent of all pedestrian fatalities per year  
16 in the 5 to 10 a.m. and 4 to 9 p.m. time periods and reduce motor  
17 vehicle occupants fatalities by 195 or 3 percent per year in the  
18 same time period; and

19 WHEREAS, A 2015 study in The Review of Economics and  
20 Statistics titled “Under the Cover of Darkness: How Ambient Light  
21 Influences Criminal Activity” estimated a 7 percent decrease in  
22 robberies following the shift to daylight saving time; and

23 WHEREAS, Scientists have connected a number of health  
24 consequences with the act of switching between standard time and  
25 daylight saving time, including greater risks of heart attacks, more  
26 frequent traffic accidents and workplace injuries, and increased  
27 suicide rates in the days immediately after the switch; and

28 WHEREAS, The citizens of California are being asked to make  
29 major changes in their personal and professional lives to conserve  
30 energy and would be grateful to receive the benefits of year-round  
31 daylight saving time in return; and

32 WHEREAS, Although neither standard time nor daylight saving  
33 time produces much energy reduction for the coldest states during  
34 the more frigid months of the year, California enjoys a temperate  
35 climate that would afford greater reductions in energy use by  
36 utilizing a year-round daylight saving time plan; and

37 WHEREAS, The federal Uniform Time Act of 1966 allows  
38 states to decline application of daylight saving time and provides  
39 states with the option of practicing standard time year round, but

1 does not allow states to practice daylight saving time year round;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, By applying daylight saving time uniformly, the  
4 state could avoid any inconsistencies in time application that would  
5 otherwise impact and confuse the broadcasting, rail, airline, and  
6 motor coach industries; and

7 WHEREAS, In House of Representatives Report No. 99-185  
8 from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, numerous benefits  
9 are listed in support of the extension of daylight saving time,  
10 including significant energy conservation, improved traffic safety,  
11 reduction in crime, economic growth, and overwhelming public  
12 support; and

13 WHEREAS, The state would greatly benefit from having the  
14 option of extending daylight saving time year round; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
17 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California  
18 respectfully memorializes the United States Congress and the  
19 President of the United States to enact legislation that would allow  
20 a state to adopt daylight saving time year round; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
22 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
23 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each  
24 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the  
25 United States.